

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
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Jason GILMORE.) Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned
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Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned) Examiner: Not Yet Assigned
)
Filed: October 15, 2003) Attorney Docket No. 66347-096
)
For: FLEXIBLE COUPLING)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

October 15, 2003

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Concurrently with the filing of this application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A flexible coupling for a ducting system, the coupling comprising:
 - a first member including a first engaging member, the first member defining a receiving portion;
 - a second member including a second engaging member, the second member, in use, engaging with the receiving portion such that the first and second members can be retained together by the first and second engaging surfaces to define a retaining cavity of substantially spherical curvature;
 - a seal arranged, in use, to seal the gap between the first and second members;
 - a third member retained, in use, in the retaining cavity such that it is rotatable in any of the three rotational degrees of freedom with the cavity around a point offset in the direction opposite to the insertion direction of the third member from a plane defined by the engaging surfaces of the first and second members; and
 - a first load bearing member positioned between the second and third members such that, in use, the load bearing member provides a load bearing surface in engagement with the surface of the second member.